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LINCOLN NOT A CATHOLIC.

This item has appeared lately in most of our Catholic papers:

"Despite the stormy weather, Lincoln's birthday was fittingly celebrated by the pupils of the Immaculate Conception School, Germantown, Pa. The program for the occasion was ably carried out.

"Rev. John W. Moore, C. M., made the address of the day. He told the children what a great man Lincoln was; of the evils and miseries of slavery, and how Lincoln seemed providentially sent to preserve the integrity of the Union. Father Moore made mention of a fact not generally known, viz., that Lincoln was a Catholic, but owing no doubt to the scarcity of priests in Illinois, where Lincoln lived, and to his environments, he drifted away from the faith of his fathers. Father Moore stated that Father St. Cyr, an old pioneer priest of Illinois, and who afterwards died at the convent of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Carondelet, St. Louis, Mo., told Father James McGill, C. M., of Germantown, and Thomas J. Smith, C. M., of Perryville, Mo., who paid Father St. Cyr a visit one day for the express purpose of finding out something about Lincoln, that Lincoln was a Catholic.

"Father St. Cyr said that he often celebrated mass in Abraham Lincoln's father's house, and that young Abraham Lincoln, who was a boy then of some 10 or 12 years of age, frequently served his mass."

That tale of Father Moore's went the rounds years ago. There is no truth in it. Even if it were true, what credit is it to Lincoln or the Church to tattle it now?

My! What "a great man" Lincoln is to Catholics nowadays. Forty-odd years ago few Catholics condemned the "evils and miseries of slavery," and any who did would have fared better to have abandoned their faith.

Few thought kindly of Lincoln or that he was a "providential" instrument to save the Union. That Lincoln was not a Catholic, and, indeed, from his surroundings could not have been, here is the very best possible authority, one who knows, perhaps, every hour of Lincoln's life, Miss Ida M. Tarbell, who writes:

New York, March 8, 1905.

My Dear Mr. Griffin:—I am afraid the claim made in the clipping which you send me—and which I am returning—that Mr. Lin-

coln was a Catholic, will scarcely bear investigation. Mr. Lincoln's father, Thomas Lincoln, was a Baptist, according to the best authorities, and Lincoln attended the church of that denomination in his early years in Indiana. In Springfield he attended the Presbyterian church, although he was never a member of any religious denomination. I believe that the fact that he attended the Presbyterian church in Springfield was due to Mrs. Lincoln's being a member.

Very sincerely yours,

IDA M. TARBELL.

PAPIST GRANDEES FROM MARYLAND AT PHILADELPHIA.

Jacob Leisler, writing from New York, 29th September, 1689, to the Assembly of Maryland, said: "It is three weeks agoe that I heard of some of your papist grandees to be at Philadelphia expecting them nearer these parts to confer with some of our papist and for some bad designe for which I made all the Inquisition imāgenable with resolution to receive them well if I had found them butt beleeve hearing the absence of Colon. Dongan he was at Rhoad Island; the Sd. Dongan is now in these parts again. He has ranged all the country and is mett daily by sevrall where it may be also they may come. I shall omitt nothing if I heare of them to receive them.—[*Doc. His.*, N. Y., 11, p. 32.]

Writing to the Assembly on 15th October, 1689: "I had intelligence of several persons meeting in papists house. When I thought some of your fugitives might have been mongst them, made me resolve to send 25 soulders who besett the house in the night but found none but the family and disarmed the man and brought him to me whom I released upon him paroll to harbor no Jesuit nor to entertaine bigger company than two in his house.—[*Ibid.*, p. 36.]

The "three grandees" may have been those named by Col. Coodée, of St. Mary's county, in Maryland, on Nov. 26th, 1689, in writing to Leisler: "Three of (our Popish) Governors are fled. One Darnall, Josephs and Sewall, we have two onely in custody; one Pye and Hill, weh three priest they had a designe towards your parts in feare of discovery hath prevented, they have with them a small yacht and Brigantine, if they be not retaken, having sent after them, we desire you would be pleased to be as kind as your circumstances will permit.